

I recently sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urging her to send newer helicopters to Afghanistan designed specifically for counter-narcotics operations. I also lobbied for stronger coordination with the Defense Department and the Drug Enforcement Agency. Yesterday, a combined taskforce of Afghan narcotics police and DEA agents – riding in Defense Department Blackhawk helicopters – launched its first airborne drug raid in Afghanistan. Authorities closed three drug labs and seized 22 kilograms of heroin. I hope this is the first of many successful raids supporting President Karzai's initiative to eliminate a growing heroin trade that helps finance terror groups like Al Qaeda.